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Historical charts from August 1966 to February 2023

Key historical Labour Force estimates

Released 16/03/2023

Source: [Labour Force, Australia, February 2023](#)

On this page

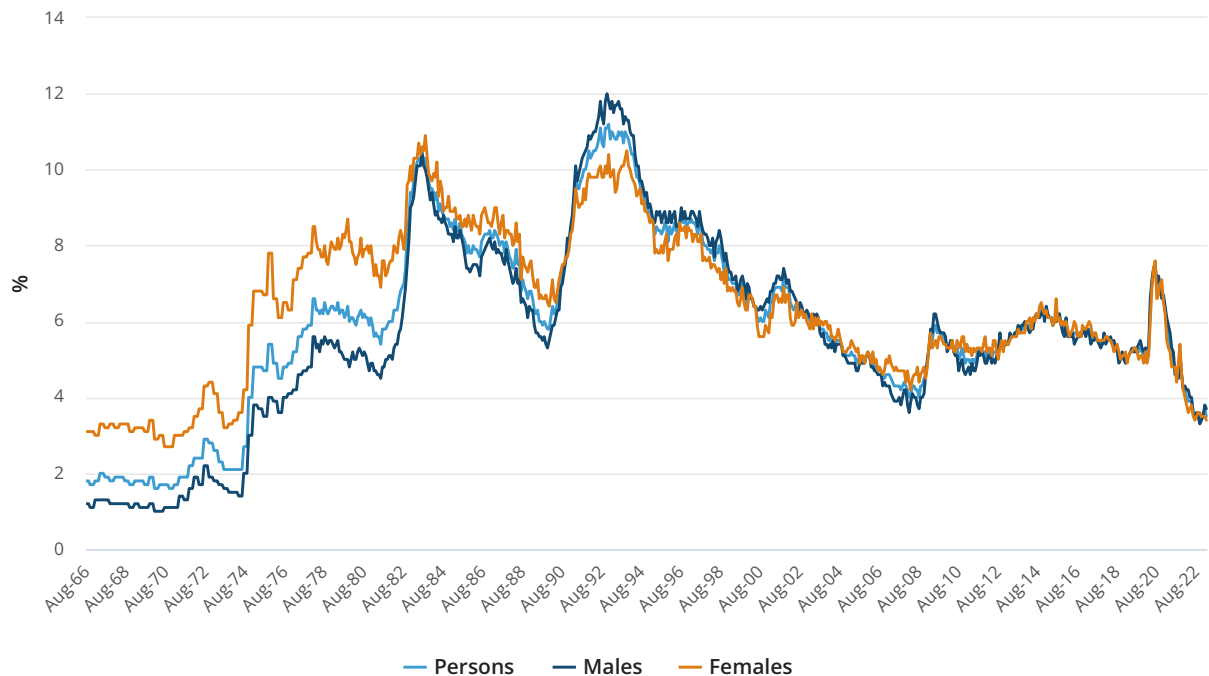
[Labour Force historical data](#)

Labour Force historical data

Historical Labour Force estimates of employment, unemployment rate, and participation rate from the historical quarterly and monthly Labour Force Survey.

Prior to 1978 the historical Labour Force Survey was collected quarterly; the current Labour Force Survey is collected monthly. Please refer to the [history of changes \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/feb-2023#history-of-changes\)](#) to see the differences between the historical and current Labour Force Survey.

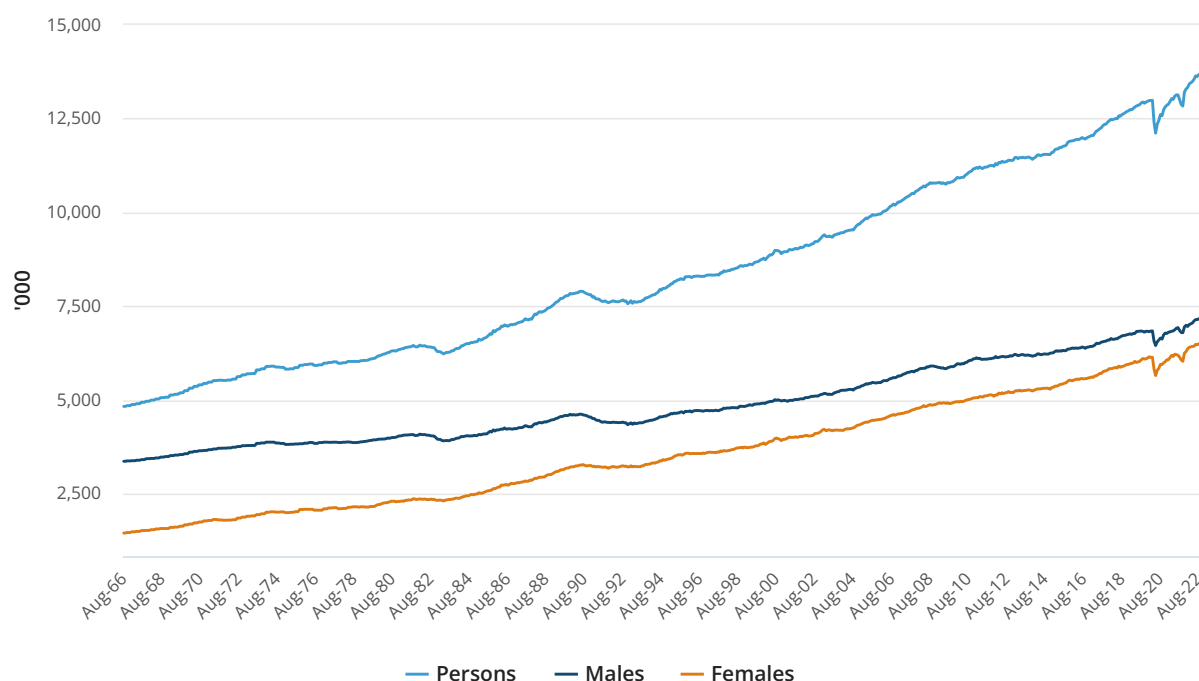
Chart 1 - Unemployment rate, Australia, August 1966 to February 2023, Seasonally adjusted



February 1978 to February 2023 estimated monthly, before February 1978 estimated quarterly

Source: [6204.0.55.001 Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, 1966-1984, Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force by sex and marital status - 1966-1977 \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?OpenDocument) and [6202.0 Labour Force, Australia, Table 1 \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads).

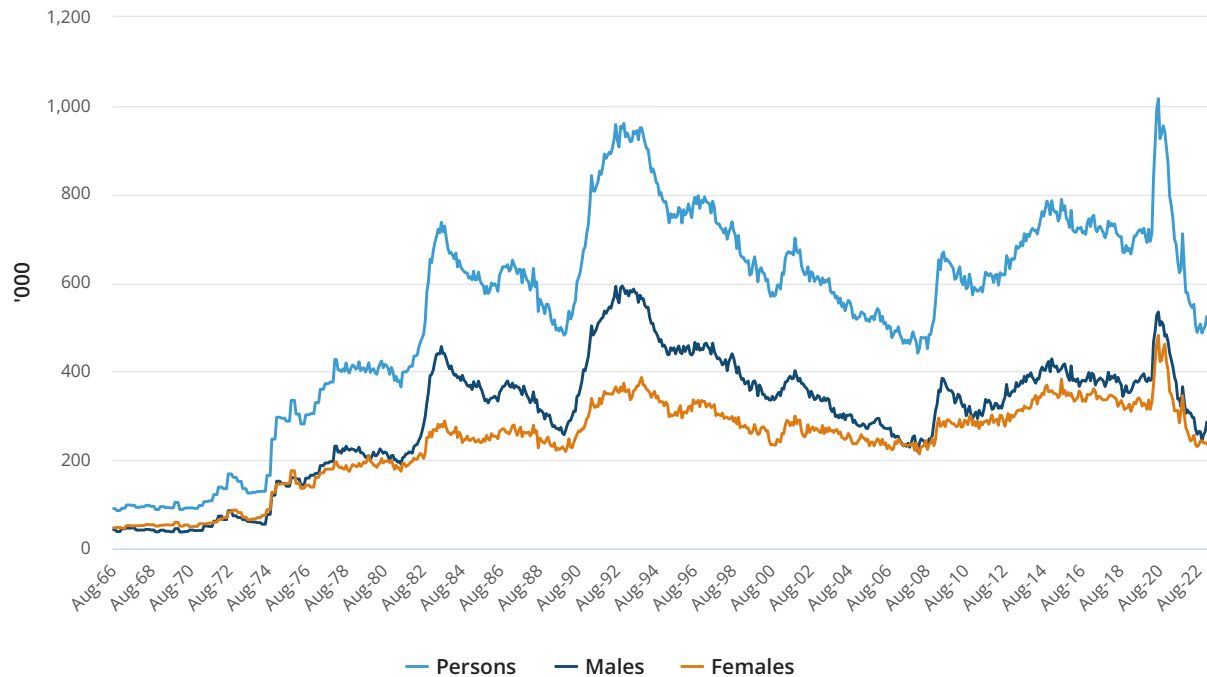
Chart 2 - Employed people, Australia, August 1966 to February 2023, Seasonally adjusted



February 1978 to February 2023 estimated monthly, before February 1978 estimated quarterly

Source: [6204.0.55.001 Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, 1966-1984, Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force by sex and marital status - 1966-1977](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?OpenDocument) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?OpenDocument>) and [6202.0 Labour Force, Australia, Table 1](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads) ([/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads)).

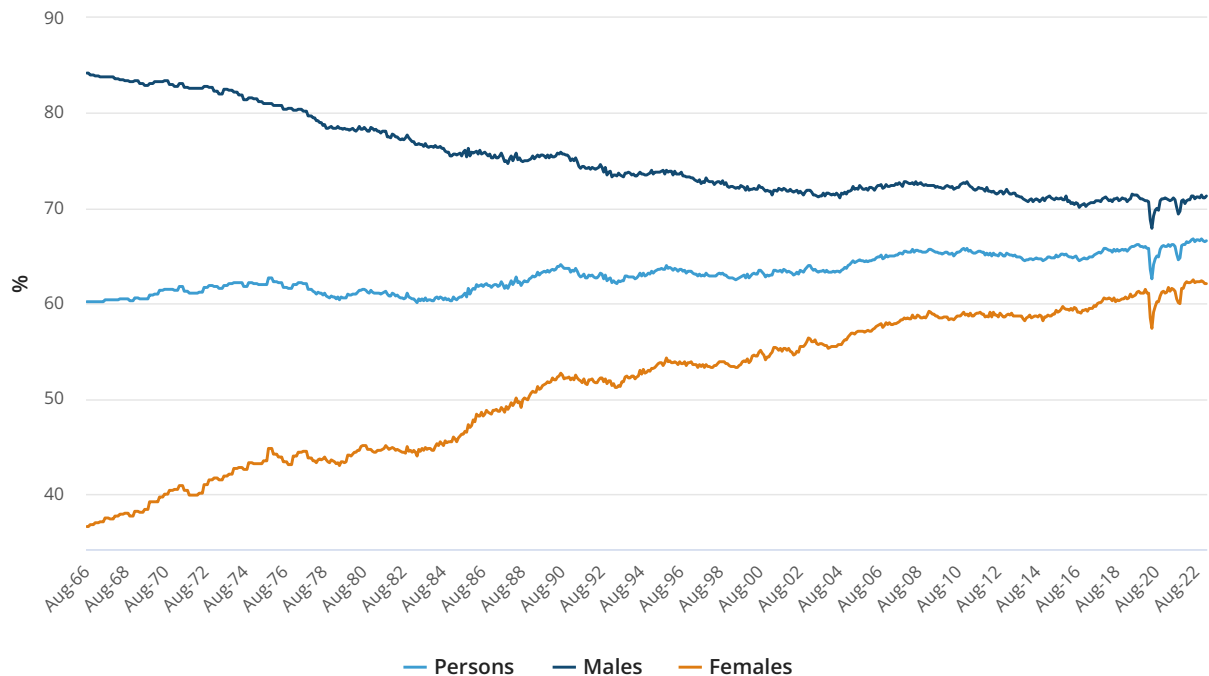
Chart 3 - Unemployed people, Australia, August 1966 to February 2023, Seasonally adjusted



February 1978 to February 2023 estimated monthly, before February 1978 estimated quarterly

Source: [6204.0.55.001 Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, 1966-1984, Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force by sex and marital status - 1966-1977](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?OpenDocument) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?OpenDocument>) and [6202.0 Labour Force, Australia, Table 1](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads) ([/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads)).

Chart 4 - Participation rate, Australia, August 1966 to February 2023, Seasonally adjusted



February 1978 to February 2023 estimated monthly, before February 1978 estimated quarterly

Source: [6204.0.55.001 Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, 1966-1984, Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force by sex and marital status - 1966-1977 \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?OpenDocument) and [6202.0 Labour Force, Australia, Table 1 \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#data-downloads).